

Central Intelligence Agency



13 February 1984

Washington, D.C. 20505

TO:

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FROM:

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RE: Stanley Karnow's Vietnam

1. After our chat last Thursday, I wanted to doublecheck my comment that Karnow credits Philip Habib with the principal role in turning the so-called Wise Men against further escalation of the war in Southeast Asia.

2. I believe the operative lines are the top half dozen on page 562. Habib is the only one of the three intelligence experts specifically named. According to Karnow, it was Habib who "pulled no punches." And it was Habib's assessment "that stupefied the group."

3. Of course, as we said last week, Karnow's account of this incident is undoubtedly derived from Habib or sources close to Habib, whereas Powers's description probably comes from George Carver. I suppose the difference here reinforces the historians' maxim that it does matter where you look for your source materials.

4. I'd enjoy hearing more about your own work if ever you're inclined to seek out an interested if only partially informed listener. In the meantime, best luck with your researches.

/S/



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/ - Chrusz